

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel non-elected claims 19-20 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 7 and 17 as follows:

7. (Amended) The polarizer according to claim 5, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has an average polymerization degree ranging from 500 to 10000, and an average saponification degree of at least 75 mol%.

17. (Amended) The polarizing plate according to claim 8 further comprising, at least one optical layer selected from a reflector, a transreflector, a retardation plate, a λ plate, a viewing angle compensating film, and a brightness enhancement film.

Please add new claims 21-35 as follows:

21. (New) The polarizer according to claim 1, wherein the polarizing plate has a dimensional change rate of not more than $\pm 0.7\%$ in a longitudinal direction (MD) after being heated at 70°C for 120 hours.

22. (New) A polarizer having a shrinkage force of at most 4.0 N/cm in an absorption axis direction after being heated at 80°C for 30 minutes.

23. (New) The polarizing plate according to claim 8, wherein the shrinkage force in the absorption axis direction after being heated at 80°C for 30 minutes ranges from 1.0 N/cm to 3.7 N/cm .

24. (New) The polarizing plate according to claim 8, wherein the polarizer thickness is at most 25 μm .

25. (New) The polarizing plate according to claim 8, wherein the polarizer thickness ranges from 10 μm to 18 μm .

26. (New) The polarizing plate according to claim 8, wherein the polymer film is a polyvinyl alcohol-based film.

27. (New) The polarizing plate according to claim 26, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol-based film thickness is at most 60 μm .

28. The polarizing plate according to claim 26, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has an average polymerization degree ranging from 500 to 10000, and an average saponification degree of at least 75 mol%.

29. (New) The polarizing plate according to claim 17, wherein the optical layer is a reflector.

30. (New) The polarizing plate according to claim 17, wherein the optical layer is a transreflector.

31. (New) The polarizing plate according to claim 17, wherein the optical layer is a retardation plate.

~~32. (New) The polarizing plate according to claim 17, wherein the optical layer is a λ plate.~~

33. (New) The polarizing plate according to claim 17, wherein the optical layer is a viewing angle compensating film.

~~34. (New) The polarizing plate according to claim 17, wherein the optical layer is a brightness-enhanced film.~~

Serial Number: 09/882,671

Group Art Unit: 1772

35. (New) The polarizing plate according to claim 8, wherein the polarizer is formed by dyeing, crosslinking, stretching and drying a hydrophilic polymer film.
